



City Administrator's Report

February 2010

Dear Reader,

Each month, this report from the City Administrator's Office provides a brief summary and update of major activities, events, projects, and programs that impact the Santa Barbara community. Feel free to send me your comments and suggestions.

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Key Meetings

City Council Meetings

Tuesday, February 23rd, March 2nd and 9th at 2 p.m. in City Hall's Council Chambers at 735 Anacapa Street.

Special City Council Meeting: Fiscal Year 2011 Budget Work Session

Thursday, February 25th at 1:30 p.m. in City Hall's Council Chambers at 735 Anacapa Street.

Community Events

LEED Certification Ceremony

Wednesday, February 17th at 11 a.m. at the front entrance of 630 Garden Street. The City will celebrate its achievement in LEED Platinum Certification.

Kids Expo

Saturday, February 27th, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at La Cumbre Plaza. This free and fun family festival will educate families about children's resources throughout Santa Barbara County. Children can enjoy music, entertainment, and a variety of activities while parents learn from information panels and booths.

11th Annual State of the City Address

Tuesday, March 16th, from 7:30 to 9 a.m. in Fess Parker's Double Tree Resort Grand Ballroom. This event includes breakfast and presentations by Mayor Helene Schneider, City Administrator Jim Armstrong, and Chamber of Commerce Chair Julie McGovern. To register and purchase tickets, visit the Santa Barbara Chamber of Commerce website at: www.sbchamber.org/.

Flags on State Street

Black History Month

February 15th through 22nd

Navy LeagueFebruary 22nd through March 1st**Opera Santa Barbara/The Granada**March 1st through 12th**City Administrator's Office**

11th Annual State of the City Address. Mayor Helene Schneider will address the business community in the annual State of the City Address on Tuesday, March 16th, from 7:30 to 9 a.m. at Fess Parker's Double Tree Resort. The event is hosted by the Santa Barbara Chamber of Commerce and sponsored by Business First Bank and Deckers Outdoor Corporation. Mayor Schneider will talk about a range of significant City issues and City Administrator Jim Armstrong will make a presentation on the City's financial condition. To register for the event, call the Chamber of Commerce at 965-3023 or register online at: www.sbchamber.org/.

Declining Revenues and Impacts to City General Fund Budget. Sales tax and Transient Occupancy Tax, the City's two major sources of revenue, continued to fall short of budget estimates. Based on this data, the City's General Fund faces a \$3.7 million deficit for the current fiscal year and a \$9 million deficit for Fiscal Year 2011 if budget adjustments are not made. Each General Fund Department has begun to prepare a list of options to help balance the budget.

Similar to last fiscal year, the City plans to address the budget shortfall with a combination of 1) department budget cuts, 2) increased fees and other revenues, if appropriate, 3) delays to capital improvements, and 4) working with employee organizations to reduce labor and benefit costs. The City hopes to minimize layoffs, but it will be challenging to resolve the budget without reducing service levels and making significant cuts to the work force.

A Special City Council meeting on the Fiscal Year 2011 Budget will be held on Thursday, February 25th at 1:30 p.m. in Council Chambers. The Fiscal Year 2011 Recommended Budget is tentatively scheduled for presentation to Council on April 20, 2010, marking the beginning of Council and public review. Budget review meetings with the City Council will be held through June, culminating in the Council's adoption by June 30th.

Two Santa Barbara Residents Needed for Air Pollution Control District Advisory Group. Mayor Helene Schneider is seeking residents to serve on the Air Pollution Control District Advisory Group. This Community Advisory Council advises the Air Pollution Control District Board Members and staff on air quality plans and rules. Applicants should have expertise in a range of technical backgrounds including land use planning, agriculture business, petroleum production and processing. Individuals who have experience in running a small or medium-sized business are encouraged to apply. An advanced degree (Masters or Ph.D) in Chemistry, Physics, Biology, Meteorology, Toxicology, or Epidemiology is preferred. The Air Pollution Control District Advisory Group meets once a month. The deadline to apply is Monday, March 3rd. Applications can be obtained from the Mayor's office in City Hall. For more information, call the Mayor's office at 564-5318.

Administrative Services Department

2010 Census. Next month, residents should expect census forms in the mail. The U.S. Census Bureau counts every resident in the United States, and is required by the Constitution to conduct a census every ten years. The 2010 Census will help communities receive more than \$400 billion in federal funds each year to support hospitals, schools, highway and road projects, and emergency services. Residents must answer ten short questions and mail the form back using the pre-paid postage envelope. Personal data that is provided to the census is private and protected under federal law. The majority of forms will be in English, however households in areas with high concentrations of Spanish-speaking residents may receive a bilingual form. Census Takers may visit the homes of residents who fail to return the form.

City Meetings and Videos Online. Over 4,800 people use the City's website everyday to access a variety of valuable information and resources. Over the past year, the City's web site has provided over 8,800 video streams. Through this important tool, residents are able attend a City meeting from the comfort of their own homes. Both live and archived video streams of City Council meetings are available online. In addition, the following Board and Commission meetings can also be viewed on the City website: Finance, Ordinance, and Creeks Advisory Committees, Airport, Parks and Recreation, Planning, Harbor, Historic Landmarks Commissions, Architectural Board of Review, Single Family Design Board, and Staff Hearing Officer. To access this valuable tool online, click on the Quick Link called *City Meetings & Videos Online* on the City's website at: www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov.

Airport Department

Frontier Airlines Adds New Non-Stop Service from Santa Barbara. Beginning Friday, June 4th, Frontier Airlines will fly twice daily between Santa Barbara Airport (SBA) and Denver International Airport (DEN). Embraer 190 aircraft will be used for this service, which seats 99 passengers on leather seating in a two-by-two configuration. In addition, the aircraft have several rows of stretch seating, which provides an additional five inches of legroom. Tickets for these new non-stop flights are now on sale at: www.FrontierAirlines.com.

2009 Passenger Statistics. In 2009, SBA served 746,789 airline passengers, a decrease of 9.1% compared to 2008 when there were 822,350 total passengers. Last year began with 37 daily departures to ten non-stop destinations and ended with 34 daily departures to eight non-stop destinations. During 2009, the highest average passenger loads were aboard *United* flights to Denver (90.4%), *Delta* flights to Salt Lake City (82.1%), and *Horizon Air* flights to Seattle (80.7%).

New Rental Car Facility Achieves LEED Gold Certification. The recently constructed Quick-Turn-Around (QTA) rental car service facility at 25 David Love Place has achieved Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold Certification. The new facility includes car wash bays, a fueling operation, and storage for more than 300 vehicles. Over 95% of construction waste was recycled or reused. At least three-quarters of the facility's energy usage is generated on-site from a 159-kilowatt solar system comprised of 816 photovoltaic panels. The combination of the facility's efficiency features and renewable energy generation

results in a 97% savings in energy costs compared to traditional construction. This is the first newly constructed facility by the City that has received LEED certification. It is also one of only 129 newly constructed buildings with LEED Gold certification in California.

Community Development Department

City Offices Achieve LEED Platinum Certification. The City offices at 630 Garden Street have achieved LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Platinum certification by the U.S. Green Building Council. The sustainable elements of the building include optimized use of energy and water, purchase of environmentally preferred products, recycling programs, and system upgrades. The City will accept an award for its LEED achievement at a ceremony on Wednesday, February 17th at 11 a.m. at the front entrance of 630 Garden Street. This is the first existing City facility to receive LEED certification.

Planning Commission Update. The Planning Commission will meet on Thursday, February 18th in Council Chambers. The Planning Commission will discuss the Public Works Streets Program's Capital Improvement Program and may hold a substantial conformance hearing on a proposed change to the approved 803 North Milpas Street mixed-use project.

Finance Department

Transient Occupancy Tax. Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT), a major revenue source for the City, is a tax imposed on guests for staying in any hotel, inn, motel, or other commercial lodging establishment for 30 days or less. TOT was down 1.8% for December 2009 from last December, which includes \$13,762 in vacation rental audit revenue. When factoring out the audit revenue, base TOT collections were down 4.1%. This marks the 16th consecutive monthly decline of TOT. Year-to-date, overall TOT is down 12.6% from the previous year. For Fiscal Year 2010, the revised TOT estimate is \$10,898,464 and assumes an overall 9.5% decline from the prior year.

Fire Department

Firefighter Awarded "Tin Person" Leadership Award. Last month, Fire Chief Andy DiMizio presented a new departmental Leadership Award to Captain Heidi Rockenbach. The award recognizes a department member with outstanding and exemplary dedication and performance. Heidi was chosen due to her hard work, diligence, and accomplishments while working in a temporary assignment with the Training Division this past year. The award is accompanied by a handmade "Tin Person" from the *Wizard of Oz*, emphasizing a person who has a lot of spirit and heart.

Library Department

Eastside Library Makeover. A generous bequest has made it possible for a renovation and equipment upgrade project at the Eastside Library. The goal is to improve the main adult section

of the Library by adding new computers, electrical wiring, furniture, energy-efficient lighting, fresh paint, and new carpeting. The Library will remain open during the renovation and limited adult materials will be available. In addition, worn-out and out-dated books and movies will be removed from circulation, and new English and Spanish materials will be available when the Library reopens. The project is expected to be completed by early Spring.

Fundraiser to Benefit Library. Last month, *Friends of the Santa Barbara Library*, a non-profit group that raises money to support the Library, held a sale and silent auction of signed and first editions, rare and unusual books, and original art work. More than 200 people participated in the fundraiser at the Faulkner Gallery in the Central Library. During the two-day sale, *Friends of the Santa Barbara Library* raised \$8,203.

Parks and Recreation

Tree Damage During January Storms. During several consecutive days of rain storms in January, City crews were busy responding to many weather-related incidents. In the 200 block of West Haley Street, a reported microburst blew over five eucalyptus trees. The trees knocked down telephone poles and wires and five vehicles were damaged. The roadway was completely blocked and crews worked all day to remove debris from the street. The following day, crews removed the remaining tree stumps from the neighborhood. Southern California Edison and Verizon crews worked to replace telephone poles and wires. During the storms, trees also fell near Alameda, La Mesa, Hale, and Oak Parks. Eucalyptus Hill Road near Hale Park and Old Coast Highway adjacent to the Montecito Country Club were among the areas affected by fallen trees. Many trees were also damaged in the Garden Street parking lot.

Kids Expo: Free and Fun Family Festival. On Saturday, February 27th, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., *Kids Expo* will be held at La Cumbre Plaza. *Kids Expo* is a family festival that educates the public about the availability of children's resources throughout Santa Barbara County. The City's Parks and Recreation Department will be one of 90 agencies participating in the event. Information about the City's Spring and Summer camps, teen events, and other programs will be available. Children ages two through 17 are encouraged to come and enjoy music, entertainment, and hands-on activities. Parents will have the chance to learn about the variety of opportunities to keep their kids healthy and active. The event, which is hosted by SBParent.com, is free to the public.

Fun on the Run. Thanks to grants from the Santa Barbara Foundation and the Wood-Claeysens Foundation, the City's Fun on the Run Mobile Recreation Program will finally hit the streets later this month. The van will be loaded with activities, arts and crafts, and sports equipment and will travel to local neighborhoods during Tuesday through Friday afternoons. The intent of this program is to benefit low-income second through eighth graders who are unable to participate in traditional recreational programs due to lack of transportation, financial setbacks, or other reasons. The van will be driven through Eastside and Westside neighborhoods during after-school hours to attract children who are home alone or usually play in the streets without supervision. Fun on the Run staff will mentor local youth and serve as positive role models.

Police Department

D.A.R.E. Graduation. Last month, about 350 local students graduated from the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E) program at the Arlington Theatre. These graduates completed 17 weeks of lessons, including drugs and alcohol education, decision-making skills, resisting peer pressure, and alternatives to drug use. As a graduation requirement, each student wrote an essay about what they learned during the course of the program. The essays were judged and winners were chosen from each class and school. The D.A.R.E. program involves engaging students in role playing, group discussions, and a healthy exchange of ideas. The curriculum has proven to be an effective tool in teaching students about real-life issues and topics that may not otherwise be covered in regular school curriculum. To provide a good role model and promote a positive view of law enforcement, Officer Anita Chamberlain interacted with each student, which resulted in a special bond and trust between officers and students.

Driving Under the Influence (DUI) Arrests. The enforcement of DUI violations or driving while intoxicated remains a top priority for the City. To ensure that drunk drivers stay off the streets, the Police Department uses a fleet of patrol officers, a dedicated DUI enforcement officer, and DUI Checkpoints that are held twice a month. According to the Police Department's DUI enforcement officer, 39 DUI arrests were made in January. In the twelve months that ended January 31, 2010, the Police Department made 366 DUI arrests.

Public Works Department

Sandbags Available During Flood Watch. When a "Flash Flood Watch" is issued by the National Weather Service and confirmed by the City, sand and sandbags will be made available to residents at the City's Corporate Annex Yard at 401 East Yanonali Street. The City will announce its hours of operation on City TV Channel 18 and through other local media outlets. Residents should bring their own gloves and are limited to only twenty sandbags per trip. For more information on how to protect property from erosion and flooding, visit the City's website at: www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov/OES.

Laundry to Landscape. In August 2009, the State of California approved installations of laundry graywater systems without a building permit, depending on conditions from local jurisdictions. In Santa Barbara, that means homeowners are free to install a laundry graywater system. Graywater is wash water that has been used in the shower, sink, or laundry. A 90-minute DVD called "Laundry to Landscape," which is hosted by ecological designer Art Ludwig, is now available for residents to learn how to irrigate using water from a washing machine. The DVD can be checked out from the Santa Barbara Water Conservation program's lending library at the Public Works counter at 630 Garden Street. For more information, call the Water Conservation hotline at 564-5460 or visit the City's website at: www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov.

West Downtown Improvements Continue. The West Downtown Pedestrian Improvement Project is more than halfway done. The goals of the project are to improve pedestrian safety and enhance the neighborhood's sense-of-place. The project includes construction activity at eight intersections – from Castillo to Chapala Streets along Ortega and Anapamu Streets. The area near Chapala and Ortega Streets is almost completed and is a good example of the improvements that will be made at the other intersections. Project elements include pedestrian-

oriented lighting, sidewalk replacement as needed, enhanced crosswalks, curb extensions, new street trees, and drought-tolerant landscaping. If weather permits, construction on Ortega Street will be finished by the end of this month. Construction will take place along Anapamu Street between February and April of this year. A ribbon-cutting event for the West Downtown Pedestrian Improvement Project is planned for early this Summer.

Waterfront Department

Mooring Area Lottery Applications are Available. The deadline to submit applications for a general lottery to fill vacant mooring sites in the East Beach Mooring Area remains open until Wednesday, March 3rd at 5 p.m. Applications are available [online](#) and at the Harbormaster's Office. These applications can be dropped off or mailed to the Waterfront Department at 132-A Harbor Way, Santa Barbara, CA 93109. Applications can also be faxed to 897-2588. The Chair of the Harbor Commission will conduct a drawing to identify and rank lottery applicants on Thursday, March 18th. After the drawing, prospective permittees will be contacted to initiate the process of assigning available mooring sites. For more information, call Harbor Operations Manager Mick Kronman at 897-2587.